

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

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P 250615Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7827

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 12830

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CB UN US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET

1. FOLLOWING ARE MY THOUGHTS ON SUBJECTS THAT MIGHT OR SHOULD COME UP IN THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH LONG BORET SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 30.

2. LONG BORET CAN BE EXPECTED TO FOCUS DISCUSSION ON FORTH-COMING UNGA DEBATE ON KHMER CREDENTIALS QUESTION, WHICH IS CURRENTLY MOST CRITICAL PROBLEM FACING HIM AND GKR. PRIME MINISTER WILL HAVE PRECISE IDEAS ABOUT APPROACHES THAT COULD BE MADE TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THEIR SUPPORT FOR GKR OR ABSTENTION. LONG BORET HAS GOOD JUDGEMENT, HE HAS BEEN A SUCCESSFUL PRIME MINISTER, I HAVE WORKED COLOSELY WITH HIM AND FOUND HIM TO BE MOST COOPERATIVE. LONG BORET IS WELL INFORMED ON UNGA PROCEDURAL AND TACTICAL MATTERS, AS HE PERSONALLY LED THE GKR'S SUCCESSFUL EFFORT LAST FALL TO GET THE KHMER CREDENTIALS QUESTION POSTPONED.

3. ON OUR SIDE IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO FOCUS LONG BORET'S ATTENTION ON A POSSIBLE CHALLENGE TO THE GKR'S CREDENTIALS AT THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE WHICH OPENS MID-OCTOBER AND WHICH COULD INFLUENCE OR PREEMPT THE OUTCOME AT THE UNGA. THE KHMER DELEGATION TO UNESCO IS

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COMPLETELY UNPREPARED TO DEAL WITH A POSSIBLE CREDENTIALS

CHALLENGE IN PARIS. LONG BORET SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO DESPATCH TO PARIS SOME OF THE KHMER TALENT NOW ATTACHED TO THE OVERLY LARGE UN DELEGATION IN NEW YORK, WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO PREPARE A DEFENSE OF THE GKR SEAT IN UNESCO. CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT THE BEST DEFENSE AT THE UNESCO CONFERENCE WOULD BE TO TRY TO GET THE BODY TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF ANY CREDENTIALS CHALLENGE IN VIEW OF THE PRESENCE OF THE ITEM ON THE AGENDA OF THE UNGA, WHICH IS THE PROPER BODY TO DECIDE SUCH POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

4. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF LONG BORET COULD HEAR PERSONALLY FROM THE SECRETARY ABOUT THE GLOOMY PROSPECTS FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE FOR THE KHMER REPUBLIC BY THE U.S. CONGRESS. WHILE THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WILL DO ITS UTMOST TO OBTAIN THE MAXIMUM RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE GKR IN BOTH CIVIL AND MILITARY TERMS, SOME SERIOUS BELT-TIGHTENING BY THE GKR WILL OBVIOUSLY BE CALLED FOR.

5. WITHIN THE ABOVE CONTEXT, IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF AN ALLUSION COULD BE MADE TO EFFORTS USG WILL BE MAKING TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE KHMER PROBLEM, WITHOUT GOING INTO SPECIFIC DETAILS. LONG BORET IS ALREADY AWARE (STATE 208865) OF THE INTENTION TO RAISE MATTER WITH THE PRC. LONG BORET WILL BE SYMPATHETIC TO THIS EFFORT. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST REALISTIC KHMER LEADERS IN UNDERSTANDING THAT AN INDEFINITELY PROLONGED WAR IS NOT FEASIBLE--BECAUSE OF WAR-WEARINESS AND THE LACK OF LONG-TERM ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF THE GKR-- AND IN ARTICULATING THE NEED TO FIND A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT.

6. LONG BORET SHOULD BE GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE AUTHORITIES IN PHNOM PENH FOR THEIR PART MUST MAINTAIN THE POLITICAL/ECONOMIC/SOCIAL/MILITARY EQUILIBRIUM IN THE COUNTRY AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE. I HAVE MADE THE SAME POINT HERE TO EVERYONE I TALK TO, AND IT WILL REINFORCE THE MESSAGE IF IT IS ALSO MADE TO LONG BORET IN NEW YORK.

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7. IF THE KHMER CREDENTIALS QUESTION IS NOT TO BE TAKEN UP IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE GENERAL DEBATE, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT LONG BORET RETURN TO PHNOM PENH. THE LATENT MALAISE AND POTENTIAL FOR DETERIORATION HERE SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED. THE PLACE FOR THE GKR'S

LEADERS TO BE DURING THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD IS HERE IN

PHNOM PENH, AND THE ACTIVITY TO WHICH THEY SHOULD BE  
DEVOTING THEMSELVES IS GOVERNING THE COUNTRY, NOT  
TRAVELLING ABROAD.  
DEAN

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